

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

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R 221548Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

USCINCSO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5745

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM

SUBJECT: GOC TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES
OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 5483 (B) SANTIAGO 5710

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS ANNOUNCED THAT GOC WILL
CONDUCT INVESTIGATION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD OF STORIES
WHICH HAVE APPEARED ALLEGING THE DEATH OR DISAPPEARANCE OF
119 CHILEAN CITIZENS IDENTIFIED AS EXTREMISTS OF THE LEFT.
PINOCHET CHARGED THAT AFFAIR OF LISTS IS STILL ANOTHER MARXIST
PLOT TO DISCREDIT GOC. IN MEANTIME, FAMILIES OF THOSE
DISAPPEARED ARE CIRCULATING VERY CRITICAL DOCUMENTS ON AFFAIR.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT AUGUST 20 CEREMONY MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF
NATIONAL LIBERATOR BERNARDO O'HIGGINS, PRESIDENT PINOCHET
ANNOUNCED THAT GOC WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION BOTH AT HOME
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AND ABROAD INTO THE MATTER OF THE LISTS OF 119 ALLEGED

CHILEAN EXTREMISTS KILLED SINCE COUP, SUPPOSEDLY OUTSIDE OF CHILE. HE CHARGED IN SAME BREATH THAT AFFAIR IS EFFORT OF GOC'S ENEMIES TO DAMAGE CHILE'S IMAGE. HE LINKED APPEARANCE OF LISTS TO SCHEDULED VISIT OF UNHRC WORKING GROUP, SAYING THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO CREATE FALSE IMAGE OF CHILE ABROAD.

3. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT OF SPEECH ADDED NOTE THAT AMONG MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED WOULD BE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY (CATHOLIC MASS) HELD RECENTLY FOR FAMILIES AND SYMPATHIZERS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED (SANTIAGO 5428).

4. ON AUGUST 20, A LABOR UNION LEADER PASSED SHEAF OF PAPERS RELATED TO AFFAIR TO EMB LABOR ATTACHE. HE SAID THAT DOCUMENTS WERE BROUGHT TO UNION BY WIVES OF DETAINEES. DOCUMENTS ARE GOOD QUALITY STENCIL REPRODUCTIONS. ONE BEARS SERIAL NUMBER STAMP IMPRINT "000225," INDICATING PROBABLE WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF PACKET. FIRST DOCUMENT IS LETTER WITH SPACES PROVIDED FOR ADDRESSEE AND DATE, SIGNED "FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED DETAINEES." LETTER CLAIMS THAT AT LEAST 1500 DETAINEES HAVE DISAPPEARED -- I.E., GOC DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THEM. FAMILIES SPONSORING LETTER CLAIM TO REPRESENT 270 CASES, WHICH INCLUDES ALL 119 ON "LEA" AND "O DIA" LISTS. LETTER AVOIDS OUTRIGHT CHARGE THAT GOC HAS KILLED 119, BUT REFERS TO HORROR OF SITUATION, MAKES ASSUMPTION THAT ALL WERE OR ARE DETAINED BY GOC, AND LABELS "TORTURE AND DISAPPEARANCE" WORST FORMS OF REPRESSION. LETTER TREATS VARIOUS SUSPICIOUS ASPECTS OF LISTS, SUCH AS UNUSUAL DETAIL OF FULL NAMES, WHICH TENDS TO POINT FINGER AT GOC.

5. SECOND DOCUMENT, WHICH BEARS NUMBER, IS "REPORT ON DISAPPEARED DETAINEES IN CHILE, PREPARED BY FAMILIES." LENGTHY DOCUMENT ANALYZES BACKGROUND OF DETENTIONS, MAKEUP OF LISTS, LEGAL AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAMILIES. IN ADDITION TO "DENUNCIATIONS" MADE TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND LEADERS (SUCH AS CHILEAN CARDINAL SILVA), DOCUMENT STATES THAT MATTER HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO ARA ASST. SEC. ROGERS. "REPORT" CLOSES WITH APPEAL FROM MOTHERS, WIVES, ETC. TO PUBLIC OPINION TO PRESSURE "MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO RETURN OUR RELATIVES TO US."

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6. THIRD DOCUMENT IS LISTING OF 119 "LEA" AND "O DIA" CASES, WITH FURTHER ANALYSIS OF BACKGROUND OF AFFAIR. PARTICULAR NOTE IS MADE OF SUSPICIOUS SIMILARITY OF LISTS, INCLUDING "INCORRECT ALPHABETICAL ORDERING," TO LISTS SUBMITTED BY FAMILIES (THROUGH PEACE COMMITTEE) TO COURTS, ETC.

7. FINAL DOCUMENT IS LIST OF 270 "DISAPPEARED DETAINEES" REPRESENTED BY GROUP OF FAMILIES. THIS LIST INCLUDES THE 119

"LEA" AND "O DIA" CASES. NAME OF MIRTHA COMPAGNET GODOY APPEARS IN LIST OF 270. THIS IS CASE WITH US INTEREST, CONCERNING WHICH LAST REPORT WAS SENT IN APRIL (SANTIAGO 2878). INFORMAL FON MIN CHANNELS HAD ASSURED US MIRTHA WAS AT TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER, AND HER FAMILY HAD BEEN VISITING HER REGULARLY WHILE SHE AWAITED EXILE. TELEPHONE CALL TO FAMILY AUGUST 20 CONFIRMED THAT SHE IS BEING SEEN REGULARLY AT NEW WOMENS DETENTION CENTER AT PIRQUE NEAR SANTIAGO. FAMILY COULD NOT RPT NOT EXPLAIN APPEARANCE HER NAME ON LIST OF 270 "DISAPPEARED."

8. DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC.

9. COMMENT: AFFAIR OF 119 DISAPPEARED OR DEAD EXTREMISTS IS PERCOLATING SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IN CHILE. MANY CHILEANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO INFORMATION IS LIMITED TO WHAT APPEARS IN CHILEAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, SEEM HARDLY AWARE OF IT. GOC OFFICIALS PRIVATELY GENERALLY LABEL IT A MARXIST PLOT AND SWITCH IMMEDIATELY TO "COUNTER-ATTACK" OF THE "WHY PICK ON US, WHAT ABOUT CUBA, RUSSIA, ETC." LINE. PINOCHET COMMENTS UNDERLINE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF GOC TOWARD IMPLICATIONS OF LISTS. AT TIME OF FIRST APPEARANCE GOC HERALDED LISTS AS PROOF OF ITS CONTENTIONS THAT MISSING PERSONS WERE OUTSIDE CHILE. TONE NOW AFTER REASSESSMENT HAS CHANGED TO DEFENSIVE CLAIM THAT ENEMIES ARE ATTEMPTING EMBARRASS GOC. GOC THUS APPEARS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT MANY OBSERVERS ARE STATING OR IMPLYING THAT AFFAIR WAS A GOC OPERATION.

10. VERY CRITICAL TIME MAGAZINE STORY ON 119, IN ISSUE OF AUGUST 11, APPEARED NORMALLY ON NEWSSTANDS HERE. CHILEAN PRESS HAS NOT CARRIED SUCH STORIES AS KANDELL'S IN NY TIMES OR OMANG'S IN WASHINGTON POST.
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10. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT DOCUMENTS HANDED TO US ON MATTER ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER EMBASSIES (CANADIAN EMBASSY CONFIRMS RECEIPT OF SET), FOREIGN REPORTERS, AND PERHAPS TO RELATIVES IN US OF PERSONS DISAPPEARED, WHO QUITE PROBABLY WILL PASS INFORMATION TO INTERESTED US CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. RADIO MOSCOW BROADCAST OF AUGUST 18 CARRIED REFERENCE TO THESE DOCUMENTS.
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